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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/514,607	02/28/2000	Steven K. Elliot	ST9-99-024	8496

22462 7590 12/17/2003

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EXAMINER

NALVEN, ANDREW L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2134

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/514,607

Applicant(s)

ELLIOT ET AL.

Examiner

Andrew Nalven

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-40 are pending.
2. The IDS received on 2/28/2000 has been received and considered.
3. With regards to claims 15 and 16, applicant has designated the claims as being dependent upon independent claim 1. With this designation the claims are duplicates of claims 4 and 5. The examiner has interpreted this to be a typographic error and for the remainder of the action has interpreted the claims to be dependent upon independent claim 12. Appropriate correction is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-25, 27-34, 36-38, and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt US Patent No. 6,154,747 in view of Fischer US Patent No. 6,105,072. Hunt discloses a hash table implementation of an object repository.

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6. With regards to claims 1,3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 25, 23, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, and 38, Hunt teaches the construction of an identifier for the abstract data type where the identifier is substantially unique to the data type (Hunt, column 6 lines 43-45, column 7 lines 42-49), the hashing of the constructed identifier to generate a signature hash value for the abstract data type (Hunt, column 6, lines 45-50), the storing of the hash value in the database (Hunt, column 7 lines 1-3 and column 6 lines 48-50). Hunt fails to teach the storing of the hash value in the class definition and the comparing of the hash value from the database and the class definition. Fischer teaches a system for validating object-oriented components. Fischer teaches the storing of the hash value in the class definition (Fischer, Figure 4 and column 30 lines 55-58) and the comparison of the hash values (Fischer, column 30 line 66 – column 31 line 12). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Fisher's method of placing hash values within the object and comparing that hash value with another because it offers the advantage of preventing a too old or too new version of an object from inadvertently operating on incompatible data (Fischer, column 4, lines 19-49).

7. With regards to claims 2, 9, 13, 20, 24, 31, and 37, Hunt and Fischer teach the instantiating of the class definition as a library function (Fischer, column 30 lines 55-58), the accessing of the abstract data type via the library function (Fischer, column 31 lines 6-10), and the comparison of the signature hash from the database and the class definition (Fischer, column 30 line 66 – column 31 line 12).

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8. With regards to claims, 5, 7, 11, 16, 18, 22, 27, 29, 33, and 40, Hunt and Fischer teach the identifier comprising a concatenation of various attributes for the data type (Hunt, column 7 lines 42-48).

9. Claims 4, 15, 26, 35, and 39 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt US Patent No. 6,154,747 and Fischer US Patent No. 6,105,072 as applied to claims 1, 23, and 34 above, and further in view of Moore US Patent No. 5,343,527. Hunt and Fischer, as described above, fail to teach the use of a relational database for storing objects. Moore teaches the use of a relational database to store objects (Moore, column 18, lines 14-21). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Moore's method of using relational databases because it provides a means for storing and providing objects that are available at the request of a workstation (Moore, column 3, lines 25-32).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

11. Any inquiry regarding this communication from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Nalven at (703) 305-8407 during the hours of 7:15 AM – 4:45 PM Monday through Thursday. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

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In the event that attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Morse can be reached on (703) 308 - 4789.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 872-9306 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202, Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Andrew Nalven

AN


GREGORY MORSE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100